

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 167226

42 S

ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 DPW-01 SS-15

PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 /063 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA FASIEVERTS

APPROVED BY EA RHMILLER

EA/VN-MR. WENZEL

EA/LC-MR. HENDERSON

EUR/EE-MR. ANDREWS

D/HA-MR. WILSON

----- 078628

P R 161729Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167226

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CASC, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: A) BANGKOK 12682 (EXDIS), B) VIENTIANE 4685

(EXDIS) C) STATE 148937 (EXDIS),

D) STATE 130969, E) BANGKOK 12035,

F) STATE 165315, G) BUDAPEST 1929,

H) CANBERRA 4215, I) WARSAW 3556,

J) VIENTIANE 4755

(ALL NOTAL)

1. WE REMAIN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT NINE AMERICANS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 167226

CAPTURED AND HELD WITH SMALL NUMBER OF OTHER FOREIGN

NATIONALS IN SVN. ALL BUT ONE OF THE GROUP WERE CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT MARCH 10 AND ARE REPORTEDLY HELD IN PLEIKU PROVINCE. ONE, JAMES F. LEWIS, ADMIN OFFICER OF US CONGEN IN NHA TRANG, WAS CAPTURED APRIL 16 AT PHAN RANG.

2. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO INFO ON THESE PRISONERS APART FROM TWO LETTERS DATED MAY 18 AND 20 FROM ONE OF THE BAN ME THUOT GROUP, JAY SCARBOROUGH, WHICH WERE BROUGHT TO UPI OFFICE IN SAIGON AND FORMED BASIS OF JUNE 4 UPI REPORT (REF D). ACCORDING TO SCARBOROUGH'S LETTERS, THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO WRITE, BUT EXCEPT FOR HIS, NO LETTERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE FAMILIES.

(FYI FOR BANGKOK: SCARBOROUGH PARENTS STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED ORIGINALS OF JAY'S LETTERS. WE PROVIDED COPIES OBTAINED PER REF E. END FYI.) ACCORDING TO SCARBOROUGH'S LETTERS, THE BAN ME THUOT PRISONERS ARE WELL TREATED WITH SUFFICIENT FOOD, ETC., BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS HAS BEEN ONLY WORD FROM THIS GROUP SINCE THEIR CAPTURE. THERE IS NO WORD AT ALL ON JAMES LEWIS.

3. FAMILIES OF THE PRISONERS HAVE TRIED TO SEND LETTERS AND PACKAGES TO THEM BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS DUE TO LACK OF POSTAL FACILITIES TO SVN. IN VIEW OF PERIODIC UNHCR FLIGHTS TO SAIGON, WE WONDER IF UNHCR REPS WOULD BE WILLING TO CARRY LETTERS AND PACKAGES FOR THESE DETAINEES. REQUEST VIENTIANE DISCUSS WITH UNHCR REPS TO SEE IF THIS CAN BE ARRANGED.

4. IN DISCUSSION WITH UNHCR REPS, SUGGEST MISSION NOTE THAT CARRYING MAIL/PACKAGES FOR THE CAPTIVES WOULD SERVE AS MEANS FOR UNHCR REPS TO RAISE SUBJECT OF WELFARE AND RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS, IN CONTEXT OF EVACUATION OF FOREIGNERS FROM SVN. YOU SHOULD RELAY SPECIFIC APPEAL FROM THE FAMILIES FOR UNHCR INTERVENTION AND ASSISTANCE ON THIS MATTER. IN RESPONSE TO FAMILIES' URGENT REQUEST WE HAVE SUGGESTED THEY SEND LETTERS TO CHARGE CHAPMAN IN VIENTIANE FOR FORWARDING BY UNHCR REPS.

5. MISSION COULD ALSO AT SAME TIME CALL ATTENTION TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 167226

TUG SAIGON 240'S APPARENT RETURN TO SAIGON WITH 34 SOUTH VIETNAMESE WHO WANTED TO BE REPATRIATED (REF F), AND TO RECENT USG APPROVAL OF LICENSES FOR AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (QUAKERS) AND OTHER PRIVATE US AGENCIES' HUMANITARIAN SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH VIETNAM, FOR UNHCR'S USE WITH PRG PER REF A.

6. JAY SCARBOROUGH'S LETTERS ASK HIS PARENTS TO SEND

HIM "OLD GOLD FILTER CIGARETS, CHOCOLATE CANDY, AND A COMPLETE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE." FAMILY PLANS TO SEND PACKAGE WITH THESE ITEMS TO CHAPMAN FOR POSSIBLE FORWARDING. IF UNHCR REPS AGREE TO CARRY PACKAGES, TO SAVE TIME SUGGEST MISSION MAKE UP SMALL PACKAGE WITH THESE ITEMS (OR APPROXIMATIONS) ADDRESSED TO SCARBOROUGH WITH NOTE INSIDE ON PLAIN PAPER THAT THEY ARE SENT AT REQUEST OF HIS PARENTS. PERHAPS BANGKOK CAN HELP ON THIS.

7. RE REF J, WE HAVE INFORMED SIL THEIR CABLE RECEIVED IN VIENTIANE AND THAT EMBASSY WILL BE GLAD TO ASSIST.

-

8. FOR BUDAPEST AND WARSAW: IN VIEW OF LACK OF MOVEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR EFFORTS AS APPROPRIATE.

9. FOR CANBERRA: ANY FURTHER WORD FROM AUSTRALIANS ON THEIR EFFORTS IN HANOI?

10. FOR ATHENS, GEORGE BARBIS, POL: PLEASE INFORM MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN PAINE AT METSOVION POLYTECHNICAL HOSTEL, ZOGRAFOU, ATHENS 624 OF POSSIBLE MAIL EFFORT AND OFFER TO FORWARD LETTER FROM THEM TO THEIR DAUGHTER BY AIR POUCH TO EMBASSY VIENTIANE. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, DETENTION, REFUGEES, REPATRIATION, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE167226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HA FASIEVERTS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750245-1201
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750750/aaaabsrj.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN DHA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 12682
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM
TAGS: CASC, SREF, VS, VN, US
To: VIENTIANE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006